of Simputer in India at present is at the level of Beta prototype testing.

(c) The Ministry of IT is considering steps to ensure protection of the invention/intellectual property in terms of Trade Mark, Patent or copyrights. The MIT is also proposing to consider the Simputer and a similar low-cost computer (as a Janata PC), as the hardware "engines" providing indigenously developed devices for addressing the digital divide.

Privatisation of CMC

3441. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to privatise CMC;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor; and

(c) the benefits Government anticipate to derive *vis-a-vis* the future prospects for IT trainees?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Disinvestment in CMC Ltd. is based on the policy of the Government that in generality of case, the Government sharcholding in Public Sector Enterprises will be brought down to 26% or below in Public Sector Enterprises operating in non-strategic areas.

(c) The disinvestment will, *inter-alia*, help the company to have a flexible management and freedom to raise additional capital from the market. In the process the company will also expand its activities in diverse areas of its operation. This expansion is anticipated to generate demand for large number of IT trained professionals.

Employment to Unemployed Youths

3442. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state the steps taken to provide employment to unemployed youths during 2001-02 in view of rise in unemployment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): To generate productive employment priority has been accorded to sectors, sub-sectors and technologies which are labour intensive, in regions characterized by higher rates of unemployment and under-employmen'